

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 13 and the Abstract are amended for clarity; and the specification is amended to correct an obvious error. No new matter is added by the amendments.

The specification stands objected to because the letter "L" on pages 57, 59, 61 and 62 is allegedly not clearly defined. The objection is respectfully traversed.

In Applicant's specification, the expression [4] is calculated for each of the sample points stored in the memory MRY. L is defined as the data point at which the substrate stage PST starts the deceleration. See Applicant's specification page 56, last paragraph - page 57, first paragraph. Thus, "L" is defined in the specification. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-29, 34-47 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanimoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,151,749) in view of Streefkerk (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0007419). Applicant attaches a verified translation of Japanese Priority Application No. 2004-028091, which supports the subject matter of the claims, and which has a Japanese filing date of February 4, 2004. Streefkerk has a U.S. filing date of July 7, 2004. Because Applicant's Japanese priority filing date of February 4, 2004 is before Streefkerk's U.S. filing date, Streefkerk does not qualify as prior art against this application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 30-33 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanimoto in view of Streefkerk in view of Loopstra (U.S. Patent No. 5,969,441). As explained above Streefkerk does not qualify as prior art against this application. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action did not make Streefkerk (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0007419) of record on the PTO-892. Applicant requests that Streefkerk be made of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Verified Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-028091
Amended Abstract

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